

Sinclair
Broadcasting's
decision to force
their stations to
air an anti-Kerry
documentary days
before the election
is a clear example
of the dangers of
media consolidation.
Democracy requires a
free flow of ideas,
to be exchanged and
debated in a public
sphere. Our media
system is supposed
to serve as part of
that public sphere.
However, it cannot
under conditions of
monopoly
consolidation or
state control.
Airing the
anti-Kerry
"documentary,"
without the
opportunity for a
refutation or
rebuttal,
effectively destroys
any semblance of a
major television
corporation serving
the public interest
or furthering the
development of such
a public sphere.

Sinclair uses the
public airwaves free
of charge, and is
obligated by law to
serve the public
interest, but when
large companies
control the
airwaves, we get
more of what's good
for the bottom line
and less of what we
need for our
democracy. Instead
of something
produced at "News
Central" far away,
it's more important

that we see real
people from our own
communities and more
substantive news
about issues that
matter.

Sinclair's actions
show why we need to
strengthen media
ownership rules, not
weaken them. They
show why the license
renewal process
needs to involve
more than a returned
postcard. Sinclair's
use of public
airwaves should be
rescinded, given the
actions of its
owners and
controllers. We need
a media system that
provides
information, not
right-wing
propaganda. Thank
you.